This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) A method for cooperative distributed task management in a storage subsystem with multiple controllers, comprising:

initiating by an initiating controller a task to be performed;

establishing by the initiating controller a task coordination data object shared by the multiple controllers, wherein the task coordination data object comprises discrete partitions of the task comprising task instructions and states for each partition of the task, task instructions for each partition of the task capable of being completed separately by one of the plurality of controllers; ~~and~~

selecting by a free controller ~~a~~ an available partition of the task ~~available for completing~~ separately and independently of the other controllers as indicated by the states for each partition of task instructions; and

completing by the free controller the selected partition of the task separately and independently of the other controllers as indicated by the states for each partition of task instructions.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising indicating a state of a partition as being READY, IN PROGRESS, or COMPLETE.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the selecting by a free controller is performed by examining the partitions in a READY state and selecting at least one partition in the READY state to operate on.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein a partition is in an IN PROGRESS state during processing.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising setting by a controller a partition selected for processing to a COMPLETE state upon completion of processing for the partition.

28. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the selecting by a free controller is performed by examining the partitions in a READY state and selecting at least one partition in the READY state to operate on.

29. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein a partition is in an IN PROGRESS state during processing.

30. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising setting by a controller a partition selected for processing to a COMPLETE state upon completion of processing for the partition.

31. (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the states provide a semaphore-mechanism for allowing a controller to ascertain whether to acquire control over a partition.

32. (Original) The method of claim 23 further comprising notifying the initiating controller when all partition states are complete and performing completion actions that are required.

33. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the task coordination data object includes information about an operation to be performed and a data set to be operated on.

34-42. (cancelled)